

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

With regard to the drawings, Figure 2 has been amended to illustrate reference letters "B", "F", "T" as described on page 7, line 26 of the specification. The amendment to Figure 2 is shown in red on the attached copy of Figure 2. Upon approval from the Examiner, the amendment will be incorporated into the formal drawings.

With regard to the Examiner's objection to the Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants are in the process of obtaining copies of the patents and references which will be submitted in the near future.

Claims 1-6 and 9-18 are pending in the application. Claims 7 and 8 have been cancelled by the present amendment. Claims 1-2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Edgar '155. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edgar '155 in view of Tsutsui et al. '998. Claims 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edgar '155 in view of King et al. '095. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edgar '155 in view of Edgar '516. Claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edgar '277. Claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edgar '277 in view of King '095.

Referring to the rejection of claims 1-2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Edgar '155, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 7 and requires the step of aligning the plurality of digital images. Based on the rejection relevant to claim 7, and specifically, on page 4, paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the reference to Edgar '155 is not believed to show the concept of aligning the plurality of digital images. The reference to Edgar '516 was cited to show this concept of the invention. It is noted that the reference to Edgar '516 has a patent date of June 11, 2002. The patent date of Edgar '516 is after the filing date of December 18, 2000 of the present application. Therefore, the reference to Edgar '516 would qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and is being applied in a rejection of the subject matter of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). As such, and in view of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as amended by the American Inventor's Protection Act (AIPA) enacted November 29, 1999, the reference to

Edgar '516 does not qualify as prior art in obviousness rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 in new or continuing applications. The present application was filed after the November 29, 1999 enactment date of the AIPA and thus is subject to the new statute. Accordingly, Edgar '516 should be removed as prior art in this rejection.

It is noted that the present invention and the reference to Edgar' 516 were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, commonly owned by Applied Science Fiction. In view of the above, it is believed that amended claim 1 is allowable over the applied references, including the combination of Edgar '155 and Edgar '516.

Referring to the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edgar '155 in view of Tsutsui et al. '998, claim 3 depends from claim 1 and sets forth a further unique feature of the present invention which is also not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied references. More specifically, claim 3 further defines the method with regard to the imaging station comprising a radiation source and a radiation sensor.

The reference to Edgar '155 and its applicability to the claimed invention has been discussed above. The reference to Tsutsui et al. '998 is not believed to correct the deficiencies of Edgar '155 with respect to the claimed invention. More specifically, Edgar '155 and Tsutsui et al. '998, whether considered individually or in combination, are not believed to show or suggest the features of claim 3 in combination with claim 1 from which claim 3 depends.

Accordingly, Edgar '155 and Tsutsui et al. '998, whether considered individually or in combination, are not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by claim 3 and claim 1 from which claim 3 depends.

Referring to the rejection of claims 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edgar '155 in view of King et al. '095, the reference to Edgar '155 and its applicability to the claimed invention has been discussed above. Further, as is noted on page 4 of the Office Action, the reference to Edgar '155 does not teach the concept of moving a medium through a single imaging station in a continuous uni-directional path, such that the medium is moved by applying the medium to a transport structure and rotating the structure. The reference to King et al. '095 is not believed to correct the deficiencies of Edgar '155 with respect to the claimed invention. More specifically, the reference to King et al. '095 relates to a film reel for a projector. The reference to King et al. '095 is not believed to show

or suggest the specific features of the present invention with respect to the combination of creating a digital image file from multiple digital images, wherein an imaging station is used to generate a plurality of digital images from a medium, with each digital image representing the same source image on the medium, and the medium is moved through the single imaging station in a continuous uni-directional path. Absent Applicant's disclosure, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined the references to Edgar '155 and King et al. '095 to achieve the claimed invention. More specifically, King et al. '095 is not believed to show or suggest a method of moving a medium in an environment where the medium is being passed through an imaging station in a manner which permits the generation of a plurality of digital images in combination with the remaining features of the claimed invention. Further, even if combinable, the combination would not show or suggest the specific combination of features required by the method of the present invention.

Accordingly, Edgar '155 and King et al. '095, whether considered individually or in combination, are not believed to show or suggest the features of claims 4 and 5, as well as claim 1 from which each of claims 4 and 5 depend either directly or indirectly.

Referring to the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edgar '155 in view of Edgar '516, reference is made to the above discussion with respect to claim 1, which has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 7.

Referring to the rejection of claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edgar '277, the present response amends each of claims 10 and 11 which originally depended from claim 8 to include the subject matter of claim 8. Further, claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 10. Therefore, each of claims 10 and 11 include the features of original claim 8 and additionally require further features with respect to positioning and moving the film. These features are not believed to be shown or suggested in the reference to Edgar '277.

Referring to the rejection of claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edgar '277 in view of King et al. '095, as noted above, each of claims 10 and 11 have been amended to be in independent form and include the subject matter of independent claim 8. As noted in the Office Action, the reference to Edgar '277 does not teach the positioning and returning steps as

required by the claims. It is believed that the reference to King et al. '095 does not correct the deficiencies of Edgar '277 with respect to the claimed invention. More specifically, the reference to King et al. '095 which discloses a film reel for a projector, does not provide a teaching of the method with respect to the present invention, in which a developer is applied to film, and the film is scanned during development. Also, the applied reference does not show or suggest the specific movement steps as required by claims 10 and 11 with respect to the positioning of a frame on a developing film in front of a source during a first film development period, and the return of the frame to the source during a second film development period, in a manner wherein the positioning and returning steps are conducted by moving the film in the same direction or moving the film in a uni-directional continuous path. The reference to King et al. '095 does not provide a teaching of moving film having developer applied thereon and of applying radiation to the film as claimed. Therefore, absent Applicant's disclosure, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined the references to Edgar '277 and King et al. '095 to achieve the claimed invention. Also, even if combinable, the combination would not show or suggest the specific features required by claims 10 and 11.

Accordingly, Edgar '277 and King et al. '095, whether considered individually or in combination, are not believed to show or suggest the features of claims 10 and 11.

Claim 9 depends from claim 10, while claims 12-13 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 11. Each of these claims set forth further unique features of the present invention which also are not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied references.

With respect to claims 14-18, these claims relate to a digital film development system which comprises a source configured to apply radiation to a developing film strip; a sensor configured to sense radiation from the developing film strip; and a transportation system adapted to move the developing film strip past the source and sensor multiple times in a continuous uni-directional path. As described above, the applied references are not believed to show or suggest the specific combination of sensing radiation from a developing film strip and a transportation system that moves the developing film strip past the source in a continuous uni-directional path. The reference to King et al. '095 which was

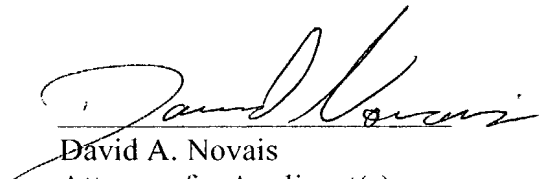
cited to show the concept of moving the film teaches a film reel in a projector and is not believed to show or suggest the specific combination of a developing film strip which is moved past a radiation source in the specific manner as required by claim 14.

Accordingly, the applied references, whether considered individually or in combination, are not believed to show or suggest the features of claim 14.

Claims 15-18 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 14 and set forth further unique features of the present invention which also are not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied references.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the inventions defined by each of claims 1-6 and 9-18 are patentable, and a favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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